

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OPR-02 A-01 SCCT-01 /058 W

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O 092215Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1174

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN SITUATION

1. SPOKE WITH POLICE CHIEF MONIZ AFTER LEARNING OF CRUZ DETENTION. HE CONFIRMED THAT 29 PERSONS INCLUDING CRUZ AND PRINCIPAL MAPA/FLA LEADERS (ANTONIO GOMES DEMENESES AND JOSE FRANCO, AMONG OTHERS) DETAINED EARLY THIS MORNING FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING THEIR ROLE IN EVENTS JUNE 6-7. THEY WERE TRANSPORTED TO TERCEIRA BY PORTUGUESE NAVAL VESSEL AND NOW BEING HELD IN FORTRESS HEADQUARTERS OF TERCEIRA INFANTRY BATTALION.

2. MONIZ SAID HE FELT ALL BUT FEW DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED IN FEW DAYS. BELIEVES THAT CRUZ ARREST AND INVESTIGATION A GOOD THING FOR CRUZ. MONIZ CERTAIN THAT CRUZ WILL BE CLEARED AND THAT THIS WILL PUT END TO QUESTION HIS CONTACTS WITH SEPARATISTS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

3. MONIZ SAID THAT MILITARY GOVERNOR HAD NOT WANTED ROUNDUP SEPARATISTS BUT THAT PRESSURE ON HIM TO DO SO SUCH THAT HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE. MONIZ INDICATED THAT HE, MIRANDA, AND OTHER ARMY OFFICERS HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED MOVE BUT THAT GENERAL HAD CONVINCED THEM OF ITS NECESSITY. MONIZ FOUND THE JOB PARTICULARLY GALLING AS HE WAS FORCED ARREST SEVERAL CLOSE FRIENDS.

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4. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING DETENTIONS BROADCAST OVER PONTA DELGADA RADIO AT 2 PM LOCAL. IT NAMES HIGHLY UNPOPULAR NAVAL COMMANDER OF AZORES, COMMODORE EMANUEL RICOU, TO HEAD COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF FOUR OFFICERS, ALL APPARENTLY CONTINENTALS.

5. IT APPEARS THAT MILITARY GOVERNOR MAGALHAES HAS COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM LISBON TO TAKE HARD LINE TOWARDS SEPARATISTS. ARRESTS OBVIOUSLY UNPOPULAR WITH AZOREAN ARMY OFFICERS SUCH AS MONIZ AND MIRANDA, WHO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN KEEPING SITUATION HERE UNDER CONTROL SINCE JUNE 6. WE SUSPECT THAT THEY AGREED CARRY OUT DETAINMENT ORDER ONLY BECAUSE OF PERSONAL LOYALTY TO MAGALHAES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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